to provide for free inter-State movement of foodgrains and farm produce and to remove certain other curbs on storage and stocking of such commodities;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the present status of its consideration; and

(c) the details of the suggestions received from the States which are being incorporated and those which are likely to be left out in the proposed amendments alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Central Government has issued an Order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 allowing dealers to freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute etc. any quantity in respect of wheat, paddy/rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils without requiring any license or permit therefor under any order issued under the Act. The Order will take effect after thirty days from the date of its issue (15.2.2002) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Order made by a State Government before the commencement of the Order.

Storage cost of wheat

803. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of storage of wheat per ton in Punjab and Haryana and the cities of Mumbai and Kolkata, separately;

(b) whether the storage charges are paid uniformly by Government to all the agencies all over the country; and

(c) whether this cost is less that the cost of storage borne by FCI itself in Punjab, Haryana, Mumbai and Kolkata?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) For Rabi Marketing Season 2001-2002 storage cost has provisionally been allowed uniformly @ Rs. 21.00 per ton per month to various States, including Punjab and Haryana, which procure wheat for the Central Pool. The storage cost is not fixed city-wise separately.

The above provisional storage cost allowed to the States is lower than the storage cost paid by FCI to CWC/SWCs for storing foodgrains.

Allocation of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh

804. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh from the Central Pool during 2001-2002, quarter-wise;

(b) whether State Government has made any demand to enhance allocation of foodgrains to the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) A statement showing quarter-wise allocation of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh from Central Pool during 2001-2002 under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Food for Wrok (FFW), Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRTY) and Drought Relief is given at the Statement enclosed. (*See below*).

(b) No request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to enhance allocation of foodgrains under TPDS to the State.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Quarter-Wise allocation of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh from the Central Pool during 2001-2002

(Figures in tonnes)

	TPDS	FFW	SGRY	Special additional allocation for Drought Relief at BPL rate
1	2	3	4	5
RICE				
April 2001-June, 01	7,14,870	—	—	—
July-2001-Sept., 01	6,78,630	3,00,000	—	—
Oct.2001-Spt., 01	6,34,710	9,50,000	1,17,580	4,90,560